

DETAILED ACTION

Status of Claims

1. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended, and claims 7-20 have been newly added. Therefore, claims 1-20 filed 7/28/11 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Weinberger (6,813,777) in view of DeVolpi (6,384,717).

Re Claims 1, 6-9, 18-19: Weinberger discloses comprising: electronically swiping an identification card indicating attendant and commercial airline flight (see col.9, lines 18-27, col.43, lines 30-58, col.5, lines 60-67, col.6, lines 1-18); electronically swiping a financial card to collect identification information for payment of rental of a self-contained in-flight entertainment device (see 121d); distributing the self-contained in-

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flight entertainment device to a passenger (see col.7, lines 33-51); noting an identification of the self-contained in-flight entertainment device (see col.5, lines 6—67 and col.6, lines 1-18); and recording an association between the identification of the self-contained in-flight entertainment device and information associated with the passenger (see col.38, lines 58-67 and col.39, lines 1-2). Weinberger also discloses accessing a plurality of portable in-flight entertainment devices collectively stored on-board an aircraft, wherein each of the portable in-flight entertainment devices include: a display; an audio output; one or more computer-readable storage media having stored thereon a plurality of audio-visual content items that are configured to be played to provide an output to at least one of the display or the audio output (see Summary); and navigation controls configured to select between the plurality of audio- visual content items (see navigation keys 385).

Meanwhile, Weinberger and Oxman fail to disclose the following. Meanwhile, DeVolpi discloses collecting the one or more self-contained in-flight entertainment devices from passengers (see Summary); determining when any one of the one or more self-contained in-flight entertainment devices was not collected and determining from the association, which one of the passengers was non-compliant for such non-collection (see Summary); and charging the financial card of the non-compliant passenger for the uncollected self-contained in-flight entertainment device (see Summary). From the teaching of DeVolpi, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to modify Weinberger's and invention with DeVolpi's disclosure of

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charging in order to "... individually identify a number... and attribute their rental with corresponding customers (see DeVolpi Abstract)."

Re Claim 2: The Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to disclose wherein the recording is done by writing an identification number of the self-contained in-flight entertainment device on a clear plastic map of seating of the aircraft as this is commonly done with all items.

Re Claim 3: The Examiner takes Official Notice that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to disclose wherein the recording is done by placing a paper copy of a finance transaction related to the swiping of the financial card into a slot of a carrying case previously holding the self-contained in-flight entertainment device as this is where many people usually place their receipts.

Re Claim 4: Weinberger discloses wherein the recording of the association has information associated with the passenger consisting of at least one of the following: the identification information from the financial card, identification of seating for the passenger, and identification information of the passenger (see col.38, lines 58-67 and col.39, lines 1-2).

Re Claim 5: Weinberger discloses wherein the financial card being electronically swiped is a credit card of the passenger (See col.7, lines 33-51).

Re Claims 10, 16: Weinberger discloses wherein distributing the one or more self- contained in-flight entertainment devices to passengers includes accessing the one

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or more self- contained in-flight entertainment devices from a storage case storing a plurality of self-contained in-flight entertainment devices (see Figure 2).

Re Claims 11, 17: Weinberger discloses wherein distributing the one or more self- contained in-flight entertainment devices to passengers includes removing the one or more self- contained in-flight entertainment devices from corresponding, individual portable storage pouches (see Figure 2).

Re Claim 12: Weinberger discloses wherein each distributed self-contained in-flight entertainment device has an identification card associated therewith (see 257).

Re Claim 13: Weinberger discloses wherein the identification card is electronic (see 257).

Re Claim 14: Weinberger discloses further comprising using an electronic card reader to record an identification of the one or more in-flight entertainment devices and associate such identification with the passengers using the one or more in-flight entertainment devices (see 121d).

Re Claim 15: Weinberger discloses wherein: distributing one or more self-contained in-flight entertainment devices to passengers for their use on-board the commercial aircraft in exchange for payment with a financial card includes retrieving financial information from the passengers using an electronic card reader; and recording an association between the one or more distributed self-contained in-flight entertainment devices and the passengers using them includes using the electronic card reader to read one or more electronic identification cards associated with the one or more self-contained in-flight entertainment devices (see Figures 4 and 7).

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Re Claim 20: Weinberger discloses wherein distributing the one or more portable self-contained in-flight entertainment devices to passengers includes receiving identification information of a flight attendant, the identification information including at least an identification of the flight attendant and a commercial airline flight (see Summary).

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-20 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fawaad Haider whose telephone number is 571-272-7178. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 7:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor Ryan Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Fawaad Haider/

Examiner

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/F. Ryan Zeender/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627